

Remarks

Applicant submits herewith corrected Figure 6 which now shows the “battery” and “brake” features of the invention specified in the claims. Additionally, Applicant is attaching a marked up replacement section entitled “Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment” that shows the changes to the specification of record.

Applicant submits that this case is now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If any issues remain unresolved, applicant would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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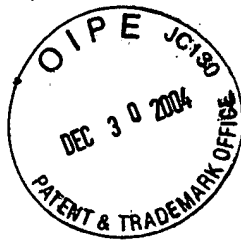
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APPENDIX A

(Marked Up Replacement Section)

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

The illustrations and examples discussed in the following description are provided for the purpose of describing the preferred embodiments of the invention and
5 are not intended to limit the invention thereto.

As shown in Figures 4 and 5, the present invention provides a self-contained dolly 104 for assisting a tow truck 102 with towing a tractor 100. The dolly 104 is preferably carried by the tow truck 102 to the location of the tractor 100. Once the tow truck 102 arrives at the destination, the attendant pushes the dolly 104 to the rear of the
10 tractor 100. A drop leg 106 with a wheel 108 helps the dolly 104 to roll. In a preferred embodiment, the dolly 104 may be electrically or battery 124 powered and directed to move to the appropriate location.

The dolly 104 is then hooked onto the fifth wheel 110 of the tractor 100. In particular, the dolly 104 includes a king pin 118 that is known in the art for fitting into a
15 mating engagement with the fifth wheel 110 on the tractor 100. The attendant then chains the dolly 104 to the tractor 100. The dolly 104 includes multiple areas for storing all of the chains 114 necessary for connecting the tractor 100 to the dolly 104. These chains 114 are purposefully located in the most convenient positions on the dolly 104, any may be stored in chain boxes 116. Thus, the attendant easily chains the dolly 104 to
20 the rear drive axles of the tractor 100. The back of the tractor 100 is also preferably connected to the dolly 104 with a chain 114. Light cords and air cords (collectively 120) are provided on the dolly 104, which are connected to the tow truck 102 by the attendant, as discussed further below. Therefore, the attendant does not have to pull any chains, lights, or cords, from the wrecker 102. Rather, all of the components are already located
25 on the dolly 104.

After all of the proper chains, cords, and hoses have been connected, the attendant activates an inflatable air bag and/or hydraulic lift 122 on the dolly 104 which lifts the tractor 100 by at least about six inches. At this point, the tractor 100 is ready to be towed.

5 The self contained dolly 104 of the present invention provides many advantages over the prior art. First, this method does not require removing the axles and drive shafts of the tractor 100, which can be dangerous and burdensome if parts are lost during the process. Particularly, the attendant does not have to get under the tractor 100 to pull the drive shaft or back off the brakes where there is a risk of falling debris and tools.

10 Also, towing the tractor 100 from the front provides certain advantages. Namely, the tow truck 102 does not have to turn the tractor 100 around in the middle of the roadway, which can be very dangerous and the tow truck 102 gets better fuel mileage because there is less wind resistance.

As shown in Figure 6, the back of the dolly 104 preferably includes a light bar
15 112 that provides signal, brake, and warning lights. The lights are powered by the tow truck's 102 power source via the light cords 120 on the dolly 104 that are connected to the tow truck 102. The light bar 112 is preferably designed in accordance with Department of Transportation (DOT) standards. Therefore, the tractor 100 and tow truck 102 are more visible to other vehicles on the roadway.

20 An additional advantage of the dolly 104 of the present invention is that it may be equipped with brakes 126 that may be connected to the tow truck 102. Therefore, when the tow truck 102 applies its brakes 126, the dolly 104 is also slowed, which results in a shorter stopping distance.

Certain modifications and improvements will occur to those skilled in the art
25 upon a reading of the foregoing description. All such modifications and improvements

of the present invention have been deleted herein for the sake of conciseness and readability but are properly within the scope of the following claims.